

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, JANUARY 10, 2013

President Tabachnick convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:01 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on January 10, 2013.

Board Members Present: Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Christina Frangiosa, Leslie Finegold, Susan Moore, Kathleen Oxberry, Heather Palmer, Beth Suchsland and Alan Tabachnick.

Board Members Absent: None.

Also Attending: Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Superintendent; Mark Fitzgerald, Solicitor; Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education; Andrew Boegly, Director of Technology; Richard Hartz, Director of Human Resources; Trevor Jackson, Business Administrator; Dr. Elizabeth McKeaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Chad Murray; Shana Genkin; Mary Thiess; Tony Fioriglio, Gary Johnson; Beth Miller and students being honored, their families and friends.

Mr. Tabachnick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Tabachnick welcomed new Board member Heather Palmer and administered the oath of office to her.

Recognition/Awards: Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) Football Coach Dan Chang, who presented his Suburban One League American Conference Championship team. See Attachment A for a complete list of students honored.

Dr. Gorodetzer noted that National School Director Recognition Month is celebrated in January. She thanked Board members for their service and introduced a video tribute to the Board.

Mr. Tabachnick announced that the Board had met in executive session on December 4, 2012, December 10, 2012, December 18, 2012, and January 10, 2013.

Minutes: Mr. Tabachnick sought Board action on the minutes of the Finance Committee and General Session of November 15, 2012; the Board Reorganization and Special Meeting of December 4, 2012; the Special Meeting of December 10, 2012; the Special Meeting of December 18, 2012; the Human Resources Committee and the Finance Committee of January 3, 2013; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of January 4, 2013; and the Curriculum Committee and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of January 7, 2013. See enclosures #1 through #6 and #39 through #43.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the minutes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Financial Reports: Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to act on the financial reports on the list for approval. He clarified that all of the reports are for November 2012 and December 2012. They include the Budget Transfers (December only), the General Fund/Federal Program Bills, the Capital Reserve Fund, the Food Service Bills/Cafeteria Report, the Outstanding Investment Report, the Cash Flow Summary, the Comparison of Taxes Collected, the Real Estate Tax Escrow Report, the Trust Fund Report, the Reconciliation of Cash Accounts, the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report, and the Treasurer's Reports for the months ending November 30, 2012 and December 31, 2012. See enclosures #7 through #17.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: None.

Old Business: Mrs. Frangiosa asked the Board to consider revisions to Policy #707, Use of School Facilities and Equipment, on a second-read basis. See enclosure #18. Responding to a question from Mrs. Suchsland, Mr. Yemm explained that a new classification and fee schedule has been added to the policy to address facilities usage by for-profit entities.

Mrs. Frangiosa moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the policy on a second-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Correspondence: Mrs. Frangiosa sought Board action on a request to accept a donation of flooring material from Independent Contract Flooring. See enclosure #19. She noted that, if approved, the flooring valued at \$4,750 will be installed in the newly renovated multi-purpose room at Colonial Middle School (CMS).

Mrs. Frangiosa moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to accept the flooring donation. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to act on a request to accept a check from Lifetouch National School Studios in the amount of \$5,860 to benefit the Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Scholarship Fund. See enclosure #20.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to accept the check. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to consider a \$1,720 award from PECO to be used for teacher professional development and implementation of an energy-focused community outreach project at CMS. See enclosure #21. Dr. McKeaney explained that the project will involve sixth grade students during the activity period. She added that the funds will be used for professional development this year.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to accept the award. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Gorodetzer stated that her report includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List, the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List and the Adult Evening School Instructors for the winter and spring 2013 sessions. See enclosures #22 through #24. She noted that the Personnel Report includes three retirements, eight leaves of absence, two returns from leave, one appointment, 11 revised assignments and four extensions of assignments. She said the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes appointments and changes for winter activities. Dr. Gorodetzer noted that the Adult Evening School Classes are self supporting.

Responding to a question from the Board, Mr. Sherman noted that approximately 1,000 students take evening school classes each year.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Board Student Representatives Report: None.

New Business: Mrs. Moore stated that Mr. Brady's three-year term on the Central Montco Technical High School Joint Operating Committee (JOC) has expired and the Board is required to appoint a member to fill another three-year term. Mrs. Moore noted that she has one year remaining on her three-year term and that Mr. Brodsky has two years left on his term.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to appoint Mr. Brady to a three-year term on the JOC. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Suchsland sought Board action to appoint a legislative chairperson to take part in the Pennsylvania School Boards Association's (PSBA) legislative action program. She noted that Mrs. Frangiosa served in that capacity in 2012.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to appoint Mrs. Frangiosa as legislative chair for 2013. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Suchsland noted that the Board also needed to appoint a representative to the PSBA. She stated that Mrs. Frangiosa also served in that capacity in 2012.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to appoint Mrs. Frangiosa as PSBA Representative for 2013. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to appoint a representative to the Colonial School District Education Foundation (CSDEF). He noted that Mr. Tabachnick filled that roll during the past year.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to appoint Mr. Tabachnick as the Board's liaison to the CSDEF for 2013. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Frangiosa stated that Board members needed to appoint a representative to the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit (MCIU) Board. She noted that Mrs. Knudsen had filled that position before her resignation.

Mrs. Frangiosa moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to appoint Mrs. Finegold to the MCIU Board for 2013. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Oxberry sought Board action on a request to enter into an agreement with Keystone Realty Advisors to assist the District in defending taxpayer-initiated appeals and recommend properties for the District to initiate assessment appeals. See enclosure #25. Mr. Jackson clarified that the company would receive an hourly fee to assist with appeal defenses and a percent of the increase if a property has its assessment raised.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Oxberry asked the Board to act on a resolution regarding sequestration in an effort to mitigate the drastic federal education spending cuts. See enclosure #26. Mrs. Oxberry noted that the resolution is from a template provided by the school boards association. Mr. Jackson stated that the cuts will affect the District IDEA and Title I programs which provide services to special education and lower income students.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to adopt the resolution. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to consider the MCIU 2013-2014 General Operating Budget. Mrs. Oxberry noted that the District's contribution to the nearly \$1.5 million budget is \$77,832. Mr. Jackson added that the District also spends nearly \$1.2 million on special education services provided by the MCIU.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the MCIU Budget. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Tabachnick asked Board members to fill out and sign their individual ballots, containing separate votes on the four areas of the Budget, including Administrative Services, Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development Services, Legislative Services and Grant Development, and Technology and Information Services. He directed members to give their signed ballots to Mr. Sherman.

Mr. Brodsky sought Board action on a Placement Agreement in Lieu of FAPE for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years with the Stratford Friends School. He noted that the agreement was reviewed in executive session.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Suchsland asked the Board to consider five student trip requests in one motion. The first is for a student to attend the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 11 Band Festival at Upper Merion High School from January 24-26, 2013. See enclosure #27. The second is for two students to attend the PMEA District 11 Choral Festival at Hatboro-Horsham High School from February 6-8, 2013. See enclosure #28. The third is for the Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) Indoor Drumline to participate in a competition in Pennsauken, N.J., on February 16, 2013. See enclosure #29. The fourth trip request is for one student to attend the PMEA District 11 Orchestra Festival at Central Bucks South High School from January 10-12, 2013. See enclosure #30. The final request is to approve the itinerary for the PWHS Class of 2014 trip to Florida from April 2-7, 2014. See enclosure #31.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the trip requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to act on a request for two CMS teachers to attend a conference at Teachers College in New York City from February 18-21, 2013. See enclosure #44.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the conference request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit: No report.

CMTHS: Mr. Brodsky stated that a tentative settlement has been reached with the CMTHS teachers. The hope is for a permanent agreement to be in place within two weeks.

Human Resources: Mrs. Moore noted that the committee met on January 3, 2013 and heard an update on the new Skyward software. Mr. Hartz noted that the financial applications are being implemented and the Human Resources applications will be implemented during the month.

Finance: Mrs. Oxberry stated that the committee reviewed the budget calendar on January 3, 2013 as well as items approved previously in the meeting.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky stated that the committee was apprised of federal and state mandates in regards to testing during a comprehensive meeting on January 7, 2013. He added that Board members reviewed the use of I-Pads in a PWHS classroom last month. He called the visit an eye-opening experience and stated that the classroom was exemplary.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mrs. Frangiosa stated that the committee met on January 4, 2013 and reviewed the First Student transportation contract, construction of a parking lot at the farm house on Flourtown Road, removal of a chain link fence on the football field at CMS, and plans to construct a bathroom on the first floor of Conshohocken Elementary School.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Suchsland reminded the community of a special meeting to discuss the District's financial situation on January 31, 2013 at 7 p.m. in the District Office Genreal Meeting Room. She stated that the meeting would be broadcast live on CITV. Mrs. Suchsland added that the District has updated the Emergency Guide for Parents that was produced in 2008 and will mail it to parents later this month. Dr. Gorodetzer added that the publication highlights procedures and practices in place. She noted that the topic will also be highlighted at this month's Parents Council meeting. She stated that school security is a sensitive subject for everyone. At Mr. Brodsky's request, Mr. Sherman reported that the District hosted approximately 350 senior citizens at the annual winter concert and luncheon on December 18, 2012. He added that more than 500 senior citizens are expected at the luncheon and matinee performance of the Colonial Players' spring musical on March 16.

Legislative: Mrs. Frangiosa stated that the first legislative meeting of the year will take place next week.

Municipal Liaisons: Mrs. Finegold reported that the Whitemarsh Parks and Recreation Department is moving to a facility on Harts Lane on January 18, 2013.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary

Brian Afflick
Noah Allanoff
James Benedict
Ryan Bischoff
Bert Brasch
Terry Brown
Anthony Casselli
Ray Clarkson
Ricky Connelly
Alton Custus
Alex DeCarlo
Shawn Frebowitz
Chas Gehringer
Pete Giorgio
Peter Godleski
Matt Goldberg
Cory Grabowski
Connor Hanlon
Brett Highland
Jarid Hutchins
Manny Jones
Corey Kelly
Steve Kovacic
Adam Krizner
Ryan Lunney
Jack Mailey
Pat Mascio
Tom Mazzochetti
Tim McTamney
Matt Melusky
Mike Negley
Deqwan Phillips
Anthony Picard
Hank Pratt
James Rodgers
Darren Russell
Jacob Schiel
Tre Scott
Jared Sieler
Jimmy Smith
Ryan Tea
Erik Tucker
Jose Vega
Conor Watton
Quincy Williams